

Bulletin No. 3 of 1928.

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.Preliminary Report by the Government Statist on the Estimated Wool  
Production, 1927-28.

I. NUMBER OF SHEEP. Statistics are now being collected as to the strength of flocks as at December 31st 1927 but pending the results of the actual count and in order to meet the demands of those interested for early particulars of the Wool Industry, the Government Statist has made an estimate of the numbers based on fairly reliable details of lambing, slaughtering and interstate movement of Sheep during the year. He estimates that there were in the State on or about December 31st 1927, 7,400,000, an increase of 116,000. This estimate is arrived at as follows:-

	No.
Actual Count, December 1926.	7,283,945.
Lambs marked year 1927 (partly estimated)	1,700,000
Net Imports year 1927	<u>259,121</u>
Total	9,243,066
LESS Slaughterings year 1927 (partly estimated)	
	1,200,000
Mortality Losses 1927 Estimated	<u>600,000</u>
	1,800,000
TOTAL SHEEP AT DECEMBER 31ST, 1927	<u>7,443,066</u>
SAY 7,400,000.	

II. MORTALITY. All the outside pastoral areas and the Counties bordering thereon have experienced prolonged drought which has been described in a number of reports received by the Statist as worse than the year 1914. The losses during the latter part of 1927 were severe. Bountiful rains have since fallen and much of the anxiety has been relieved.

III. <u>WOOL-CLIP, 1927-28.</u>	Lbs.
Sheep and Lambs Shorn, Estimated	8,000,000
Wool-Clip in grease including crutchings (Sheep and Lambs)	67,200,000
Average weight Fleece (Sheep and Lambs)	8.40

The previous year the State's wool-clip (1926-27) yielded from 7,271,698 sheep and lambs 63,078,242 lbs averaging 8.67 lbs. The clip for 1927-28 now being marketed is estimated to yield 67,200,000 lbs, an increase in the grease of 4,121,758 lbs. More sheep were shorn but the weight of fleece weighed .27 lbs less than the previous year.

IV. INTERSTATE MOVEMENT OF WOOL. Considerable quantities of Wool from New South Wales, Victoria and some from Western Australia are sent to Adelaide for sale and shipment and a good quantity of the South-Eastern clip is sent from this State to Victoria for sale and shipment. A monthly record is kept of this Interstate Trade and from these details the Net Imports for the Season are estimated at 4,600,000 lbs. in the grease.

V. GRAND TOTAL WOOL-CLIP FOR SALE AND SHIPMENT. Adding the net Interstate Imports, 4,600,000 lbs, to the wool-clip of the State, 67,200,000 lbs, a grand total of 71,800,000 lbs, in the grease is estimated as available for Adelaide sales and ultimate shipment. The details may be set forth as follows:-

<u>SEASON 1927-28.</u>		Lbs.
Estimated State Wool-Clip in the Grease		67,200,000
Imported from States		<u>17,900,000</u>
	Total	85,100,000
Less Exports to States		<u>13,300,000</u>
Grand Total Available Adelaide		<u>71,800,000</u>

VI. OVERSEA EXPORTS. The Seasonal Exports (July 1927 to January 1928) of Wool to Oversea Countries was equivalent to 53,569,481 lbs in grease, the value for greasy and scoured combined being entered as £3,592,492. The average per lb greasy was 16.7d. per lb. for the seven months against 14.82d. per lb. for the previous season. From this it appears that the results of the sales in Adelaide to date are averaging 12½% greater than the previous Season.

VII. CONCLUSION. As nearly 75% of the estimated available wool has now been sold in Adelaide and exported, it is possible to make a reasonable estimate of the probable value of the whole. It may be fairly anticipated that the advanced values to date will be maintained and on that assumption it is estimated that the total South Australian clip of 67,200,000 lbs in the grease will realize not less than £4,675,000 or £780,000 greater than the clip for the previous year. In addition to this the Wool on Sheepskins exported and fellmongered must be taken into account. Last Season this was estimated at £570,000 making a grand total value of £4,468,551 for 1926-27. In view of the tendency to heavier slaughterings and increased market values for wool, £600,000 should be a safe estimate on this account for 1927-28. This gives an estimated total for the Season 1927-28 of £5,275,000 against £4,468,551 for the Season 1926-27 as the value of wool-clip, wool on skins, and fellmongered, an increase of £806,449.

#### SUMMARY OF STATE'S WOOL PRODUCTION IN THE GREASE.

Season ended June 30th	Aver. weight fleece	Wool Production and Value				Average per lb. Greasy
		Shorn and Crutchings	On skins and fellmongered	Grand Total	Estimated Value	
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	£	d.
1923	8.14	49,213,145	9,485,593	58,698,738	4,343,706	17.76
1924	8.37	49,964,235	7,917,701	57,881,936	5,305,844	22.00
1925	8.80	55,642,383	6,796,570	62,438,953	5,975,928	22.97
1926	8.73	60,380,584	8,626,682	69,007,266	4,295,702	14.94
1927	8.67	63,078,242	9,286,958	72,365,200	4,468,551	14.82
* 1928	8.40	67,200,000	9,000,000	76,200,000	5,275,000	16.70

\* 1927-28 is estimated, subject to final revision.

Statistical Office,  
Adelaide,  
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